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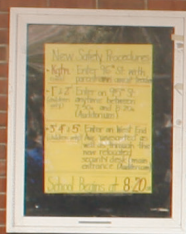
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#### ON THE COVER

We Are the Champions: Janel McCarville of the Minnesota Lynx holds the WNBA Championship trophy.  
Photo by Sophia Hantzes

#### CLARIFICATION

As a point of clarification regarding the "Hulk" in our Halloween Issue, the appearance of a bare-chested person was a well-executed airbrush makeup job on top of tape.

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22

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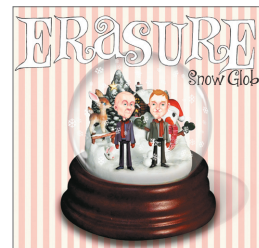
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## Special Interest

It's the Friday after the Minnesota Magazine & Publishing Association's Excellence Awards ceremony...and the Friday we go to press. Often, I'm writing this letter at the "twelfth hour," as my friend Bob so aptly named it. It's late, I'm under-the-gun, mistakes tend to happen, and that's just how it goes. We get ten business days per issue, my piece gets a few hours of that. It's worth it, to be able to write about what's relevant exactly as this issue goes from electronic to print in its format. Kind of like driving my Jeep on "E," I get a little thrill out of it...though I might end up with an empty tank and a typo or two because of it.

So, what happened at the last minute that is so relevant for me to write about today? It's a mix of long-awaited plans, last night's awards, and what's coming up next year in our Editorial Calendar. The past, present, and future are all rolling around in my brain, ready to drop into a glass of water and fizz like Alka Seltzer.

Lavender won eight awards at the MMPA ceremony last night. I'm very pleased with that number, especially since three of them are Gold Awards. I'll make sure to show and tell about the awards in an upcoming issue (the irony in being the magazine that reports our own magazine awards doesn't elude me), but last night was more of a reminder of how much work can be done here at Lavender. What was stuck in my system and required the virtual Alka Seltzer was our standing as being in the Special Interest category. If you follow my logic, it's about how this community isn't yet mainstream, not General Interest. This comes up every time there's a snarky remark about how Lavender doesn't even need to exist...that it's unnecessary. But I always come back to the fact that until the GLBT community is prominent as part of what is General Interest in our society, it needs its space in the Special Interest category. I will rejoice heartily when it doesn't.

As I was chewing on all of this last night, I started to smile. I realized that as a Special Interest category, we've got the prime standing as always having something fresh to talk about. In the past few years, I've noticed how our Editorial Calendar is fairly comprehensive for a small, independent bi-weekly magazine, but that it needs to cover more topics that are *especially interesting* to this Special Interest community. Sure, we've got arts, dining, travel, music, books, leather, news, vehicles, homes & garden, some politics, columnists, bars, booze, and history. But, I've wanted to expand into more areas of Special Interest like fashion, health, fitness, family, and sports. Because this community not only includes the General Interest population but also the Special Interest population, we've got more reasons to be more diverse than any other publication out there.

Want Special Interest? We'll have Special Interest.

So, starting in the first issue of 2014, *in addition to our current Edi-*

*torial Calendar*, we'll have new quarterly features including fashion, health, fitness, and family—as well as a new sports column in every issue. That's almost doubling the Editorial Calendar by adding these topics that are specific and special to this community. I'm pleased that our success can lead us to this growth.

**Fashion Quarterly.** We've got a rich fashion community in the Twin Cities. Whether interested in the trends, the clothes, the accessories, the designers, the stores, or what's happening behind the scenes, we'll present more fashion to you on a regular basis.

**Health Quarterly.** Health in this community is more than a matter of special interest, it's a matter of life and death. Living and dying—and how health figures into both—require a different perspective for people who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, or anywhere along the spectrum. As we progress through the year, we'll have an opportunity to highlight and address concerns, as well as triumphs and victories, in GLBT health.

**Fitness Quarterly.** The stats show that this community has fitness high on its list of priorities. We can serve as a resource for the active members by talking to the professionals, doing how-to pieces for specific needs, and highlighting ways you can get involved in fitness groups that not only serve as an outlet for exercise but also for socializing with people in the community.

**Family Quarterly.** This community has families. Whether from heterosexual unions of whatever variety, adoption, artificial insemination, or undisclosed circumstances, it's time for us to explore more of this topic. From how to get pregnant, adopt, or arrange the legal aspects of co-parenting to advice for raising kids as a same-sex couple, we'll be asking the experts...and the experts include you, the parents.

**Sports.** Related to the topic of Fitness, this community is very sports-oriented. We've got leagues and players in rugby, football, basketball, bowling, soccer, baseball, softball, roller derby, swimming, running...the list goes on. We are going to do a Sports column in every issue to cover teams and players on the local, national, and international levels.

And there you have it. It's my pledge to you that while our Special Interest publication has been only seeing more and more success, we won't stop reaching further. We've been building a great magazine and online community, and will only continue to make it greater. Our breadth and depth will match more closely the community we represent and succeeding at that feat will be all the award we'll need. Our Special Interests are diverse and our community members are engaging resources.

Thank you for being such a rich community to represent.

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## Justice for Puppy Doe – and Beyond

In August, a pit bull puppy was found in a wooded area near a Quincy, Massachusetts, playground. She had been systematically tortured over time, to such a degree that veterinarians had no option but to euthanize her.

Dr. Martha Smith-Blackmore, vice president of animal welfare at the Animal Rescue League of Boston told the *Boston Herald* that the puppy's condition was "unquestionably ... hands down" the worst case of cruelty she had ever witnessed.

As the "Puppy Doe" case went worldwide, her previous owner came forward. Forced to surrender her pet, she gave her away through Craigslist. Phone records linked the dog to Polish national Radoslaw Czerkawski; searches of his home disclosed blood spatters, fur, and a bloody paw print matching Puppy Doe's DNA. Czerkawski is currently being held on \$500,000 bail facing a possible 55-year prison sentence for eleven counts of animal cruelty.

Callie Crossley wrote on WGBH news, "Hundreds of Puppy Doe supporters demanded justice for the abused dog. I look toward the day when vulnerable humans suffering abuse will inspire masses of sympathizers to demand the same for them."

Crossley doesn't acknowledge that justice isn't an either-or situation. Norfolk District Attorney Michael Morrissey stressed, "From the beginning, we've been concerned that if an individual could do this to a dog or another animal, what could they do to a person? This made this an extremely important case to us." Attorney General Martha Coakley concurred: "Someone who takes pride or pleasure in the ritual torture of animals, whether it's a young child or an adult, it's an indicator this person is capable of and may seek to inflict pain on other people."

Statistics show direct connections between animal abuse and domestic violence. The current hue and cry over Puppy Doe may well result in saving other animals and humans. People can learn to stop handing over live animals on Craigslist. Substantial prison sentences for animal abusers could curtail their freedom to move on to children or vulnerable adults. Puppy Doe's terrible suffering can have meaning if we will learn.

Everything—every being—has a place on the circle. People and other living creatures are interrelated in ways we are only dimly beginning to realize. We need to honor and protect every life. ■

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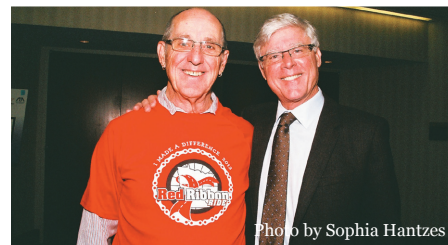


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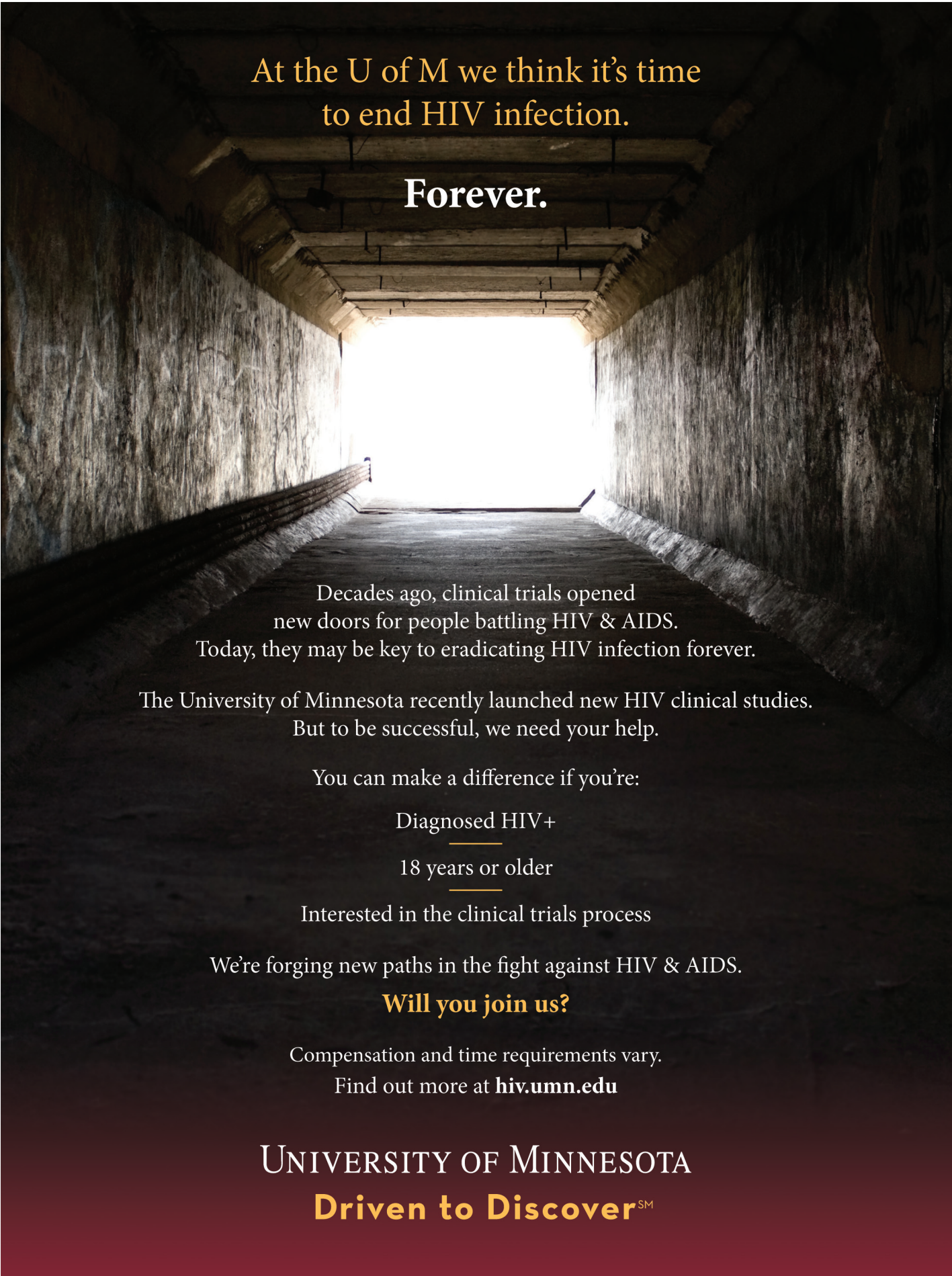
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— Pamela Espeland, MinnPost.com

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## "BEAR" WITH ME

(WHILE I TELL YOU ABOUT) ...  
by Barry Leavitt

### JUL TO THE WORLD, A NORDIC CHRISTMAS

Now thru Sunday, January 5, 2014

American Swedish Institute  
2600 Park Ave., Minneapolis

Experience the joy and warmth of the holidays at the American Swedish Institute (ASI)'s "Jul to the World" celebration this winter. ASI hosts a wide array of holiday exhibits, events and programs perfect for everyone: from musical performances for families, to a romantic date night with a special someone, to unique after hours holiday *glögg* (mulled wine) tours at the ornately decorated historic Turnblad Mansion or enjoy a hot chocolate and baked goods around an outside bonfire in ASI's Enchanted Forest. Explore contemporary holiday traditions and farm to table seasonal cuisine throughout the Mansion in the beloved annual holiday rooms of the five Nordic countries. Visit [www.asimn.org](http://www.asimn.org) for more information.

### 19 BAR'S NOVEMBER POOL TOURNAMENT

Sunday, November 17 • 4pm

19 Bar • 19 W. 15th St., Minneapolis

Chalk up your pool cue! It's time for the 19 Bar's monthly pool tournament! \$5 entry fee! There's a CASH PRIZE for the winner, and \$15 BAR TABS for 2nd and 3rd place! Don't miss it! Visit [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and search "The 19 Bar" for more information.

### LIFE IS A CABARET

Sunday, November 17 • 2pm

Marriott Ballroom • 5901 Wayzata Blvd., St. Louis Park

Join the Minnesota Freedom Band for a cabaret concert featuring a Broadway Sing-A-Long, Cabaret style seating at tables, Broadway music you know and love, and of course the Minnesota Freedom Band. Get your favorite beverage at the cash bar and enjoy some great Broadway music. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$12 for children and seniors. There are also a limited number of \$25 VIP tickets, which includes front row seating and a glass of champagne. Visit [www.mnfreedomband.org](http://www.mnfreedomband.org) for more information.

### GLBT STAND-UP COMEDY SHOWCASE

Wednesday, November 20 • 8pm

Camp Bar, 490 N. Robert St., St. Paul

Twice a year, the Twin Cities funniest GLBTQA comedians come together at Camp Bar for a night of hilarious stand-up. Comedy seductress Amber Preston headlines the showcase with her quirky improvisation. Amber was recently named one of "5 Comedians to Watch" in New York Magazine. Her brassy charisma and keenly honed jokecraft



leave audiences powerless not to fall head over heels. From raucous roadhouses to the classiest clubs Preston's saucy, mischievous charm captivates diehard and casual comedy fans alike. She's joined by Chris Klavetter, Alvin Irby, Matt Iverson, Mark Nusbaum, and emcee Jakey Emmert. The event is free of a cover charge. For directions or more information, visit Camp-Bar.net.

#### **MASKS:2**

**Thursday, November 21 • 7-10pm**  
**The Saloon • 830 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis**

MASKS:2 is a collection of photographs that explore the masks that we wear and the masks that control us. The event features art from Ryan Coit, Tim Davis, and Erik Janzen. Due to imagery and subject matter, this collection is for mature audiences only. Search "MASKS:2 Photography Collection" on Facebook for more information.

#### **BEAR BAR NIGHT**

**Saturday, November 23 • 8-11pm**  
**eagleBOLTbar • 515 Washington Ave. S., Minneapolis**

Otters, and Cubs, and Bears, OH MY! Join the North Country Bears for their monthly Bear Bar Night in the Bolt Underground. \$7 gets you a cup for keg beer, pop, and a whole lot of burly bears, otters, cubs, and their admirers...Grrr. Visit [www.eagleboltbar.com](http://www.eagleboltbar.com) for more information.

#### **TRIANGLE OF HOPE PRESENTS: 18TH ANNIVERSARY EX-DRA-G-A-GANZA** **Sunday, November 24 • 5-8pm** **Town House**

Join Triangle of Hope as they celebrate their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday with an event featuring an all-star lineup of Twin Cities entertainers, 50/50 raffles, light buffet, and much more. It all benefits Clare Housing. Hosted by Mary Brewster, and featuring Barbara Gordon, Burberry Vuitton, Gucci Velour, Lady Katie, Mia Dorr, Tonia Lee Collins, Ti-Nea'. Visit [www.townhousebar.com](http://www.townhousebar.com) for more information.


#### **WE'RE ALL GOING TO HELL BY BLACK HEARTS BURLESQUE**


**Friday, November 29 • Doors 9:30pm • Show 10:30pm**

**Hell's Kitchen • 80 S. 9th St., Minneapolis**

Join the Black Hearts on Black Friday as they celebrate the things they're most thankful for.....T & A! \$10/21+. November's incarnation includes a silent auction benefitting Save-A-Bull, a pit bull rescue, rehabilitation, and rehome organization. Reserved seating is available for \$20. Please email [booking@blackhearts-burlesque.com](mailto:booking@blackhearts-burlesque.com) to reserve seats.



#### **NOTABLE**

Congratulations to Lavender advertiser, T Lee Designer Jewelry, which was recently named by jewelry industry magazine, Instore, as the coolest jewelry store in America. Head over to 509 1/2 First Ave. NE in Minneapolis, and see for yourself how cool the store is. Way to go T Lee! 



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*Disabled Theater.* Photo courtesy of Walker Art Center

## BLUE IS THE WARMEST COLOR

Lagoon Cinema, 1320 Lagoon Av., Mpls.

(612) 823-3020

[www.landmarktheatres.com](http://www.landmarktheatres.com)

You may cringe and squirm. You may jump for joy. Or some of both when you see this year's Palme d'Or (Best Picture Award) Winner at the world's most prestigious film festival at Cannes. It runs just over three hours but if you realize you are in for an intimate look into the life of a teenaged lesbian falling in love for the first time and just stay with it, the film has rich rewards to offer. Adele Exarchopoulos plays high school student protagonist Adele who is wooed by a post-secondary art student with died blue hair named Emma (Lea Seydoux). Femme Adele is vulnerable and very intelligent, but gentle in intellectual discussion. Butch Emma is steely and learned, the type who might shun you if you didn't agree with her hyper-opinionated views. The age difference between them in the beginning of the film will surely raise eyebrows. Had Emma been a man would he have been arrested for stalking and statutory rape?

One of the many riches of this beautiful film is the juxtaposition of the Apollonian to the Dionysian. It's packed with organically interpreted intellectual comments made by various characters and will soon shift to some of the most passionate sex scenes you'll ever see in a film not screening at an adult arcade. Moreover, *Blue* is packed with unexpectedly interesting scenes that revolve around food, intimate scenes between the two young women, moments of affection, as well as many very touching moments as Adele becomes a young woman committed to teaching very young children ways of appreciating cultural traditions beyond her native France. Though there are some scenes of parental unconsciousness and lesbophobic bullying, it doesn't tarry too long in those areas like so many other queer-themed films do. Nothing against some of those films, but those situations have been played out often. That said, so have the coming-out and coming-of-age themes that *Blue is the Warmest Color* is grounded in. But it's the intimacy that puts this film in a class all its own.

Nor do politics and discrimination take center stage aside from some protest and Gay Pride scenes. Tunisian director Abdellatif

Kechiche has uncompromisingly focused *Blue is the Warmest Color* in profoundly human and intimate ways that you may have never seen in a film or on stage or experienced yourself. If the film seems slow-going to you, maybe take that as an indicator that it's your own mind that has become too filled with its own chatter and clutter so that you cannot be present for what the film is gracefully taking its time to relate. It hypnotizes. It reminds us just how confusing and difficult youth can be. And perhaps, most difficult of all, is that it makes the GLBT community which is so steeped in 'celebrating itself,' take stock of how we can be absolutely awful to our own. And that no amount of screeching about xenophobia and queerphobia can deflect from the fact that we can be inexcusably cruel to our own. Kechiche has come under severe criticism from his actresses, some critics, and some audiences. But sometimes the birth of art can be extremely difficult. And Kechiche, Exarchopoulos, and Seydoux have given birth to what will surely become a classic not only in queer cinema but cinema in general. (And please note I did not use that idiotic term 'instant classic.' *Blue is the Warmest Color* has the depth of intimacy and bravery in showing human behavior at certain extremes

that you just don't see, even in the best love stories. The mixed audience I saw it with stayed with it through its entire length. Wow!)

## DISABLED THEATER

Nov. 21, 22, & 23

Walker Art Center,

1750 Hennepin Av., Mpls.

(612) 375-7600

[www.walkerart.org](http://www.walkerart.org)

Switzerland's acclaimed Theater HORA, a troupe of actors with disabilities, and conceptual performer Jerome Bel of Paris, have blended energies with a work titled *Disabled Theater*. It deals with issues of identity, discrimination, and the limitations of preconceptions. Critics in Europe and New York have gushed over the 90 minute piece's frank and forthright approach to these issues. Theater HORA was formed in Zurich 20 years ago with the mission of developing the artistry of persons with learning difficulties and uplift their work to a professional level. The group's unfiltered approach and raw theatricality takes theater to its most basic form. Actor and audience connect with no frills.

Jerome Bel is known for innovative and experimental work that pushes lots of buttons. Past pieces have involved total nudity of performers, international dance, and a single actor wearing many T-shirts. Bel and Theater HORA point to the ever expanding and unfolding reality of what is possible in performing arts. At the same time they know how to take theatrical performance back to its timeless elemental basics. In our own culture, where most people have become habituated into their theatrical tastes and comfort zones, the Walker Art Center once again brings evidence that there are fewer limits to performance than we've been conditioned to believe. For those who have never seen topnotch work by actors with disabilities, consider that you have been prejudiced and predisposed. The Walker, the Guthrie Theater, and Minnesota's own Interact Theatre have provided ample evidence that such prejudices are outdated and just plain wrong.



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photo by Dan Norman | Dean Holt, Reed Sigmund



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*The Sexual Life of Savages.* Photo by Dan Norman

## THE SEXUAL LIFE OF SAVAGES

Through Dec. 14

Minneapolis Theatre Garage, 711 W. Franklin Av., Mpls.  
[www.brownpapertickets.org](http://www.brownpapertickets.org)

The internet and its sex connection sites from gay.com to craigslist to AdultFriendFinder to match.com, etc. etc. etc. have changed the entire landscape of sexual activity and human relationships. The genie escaped from the bottle years ago but multitudes have yet to integrate the shift. Even if you have integrated that shift yourself, many around you, including those who could be your Mr. or Ms. Right or polyamorous life partners may not have. Generally speaking, many older people are understandably skeptical (and sometimes wisely skeptical) of how cyberspace can wreak havoc on one's personal information, hence their very life. Generally speaking, many younger people are careless and not skeptical enough of what can go wrong with putting your self out there online. Ideally, both extremes, of course, should be balanced. That's why Ian MacAllister McDonald's new play is so eagerly awaited as it takes on the realm of sexual posers, sexual explorers, and swingers. The honest explorers and the swingers may repel your own moralistic viewpoint but they tend to be genuine in their desire. The posers....well that's another thing. (Check out 'men seeking men' on craigslist sometime and you will be struck by how many self-described 'jocks' are listed. You'd think half of the local college and professional sports teams in the metro area were seeking homosexual activity. And of course, you *must* be under 30.)

*The Sexual Life of Savages* is a kind of anthropological study of how contemporary Americans balance, or not, their primal impulses with ethics. Joe Bombard plays Hal, a man whose girlfriend, Jean (Meghan Kreidler), has had more sexual experience than he has had. This throws all kinds of energies into motion. Sexuality, after all, is a mighty power. Is there a way you can master it without suppressing it? That's a question to ask yourself. Also, has the notion that you are all the people you have ever slept with finally worn out? Recall that that was a shrewd right wing shame-based ploy to inculcate fear about gays and homosexuality in the AIDS-hysterical 1980s. Thankfully, there's an upward spiral that still transcends that is making us reconsider and reconfigure a more realistic and satisfying view of sexuality and relationships. The web, for all its confusion and deception can also be ground zero for a better and more sexually satisfying way of being. We see this with serious talk about polyamory, the way serious thinkers like Dan Savage challenge judgements about kink, spiritual movements and figures like Abraham via Esther Hicks that see sexploration as legitimate and uplifting, and authors like Ryan and Jetha whose *Sex at Dawn* has blown the lid off the very way we think of 'animalism,' prehistory, evolution, gender, and monogamy. Go to the Theatre Garage to see if MacAllister-McDonald is on the wave or resisting it. Either way, the play will give you lots to think and fantasize about. Walking Shadow Theater continually presents well-written plays that deal with social concerns and the company

is admirably unafraid of boldly and intelligently addressing all kinds of sexual issues.

## WE WILL ROCK YOU

Nov. 19 – 24

Orpheum Theatre,  
 910 Hennepin Av., Mpls.  
 (800) 982-2787

[www.HennepinTheatreTrust.org](http://www.HennepinTheatreTrust.org)

It's been running for 12 years on London's West End and was voted on by the public as the UK's favorite show by the Olivier Awards, Britain's equivalent of the Tony Award. Further proof that Queen and its lead singer who died of AIDS, Freddie Mercury, still live in the hearts and psyches of the masses. Television writer and comedian Ben Elton has reshaped the show somewhat for its American run reflecting social changes that have occurred since it first opened. Elton shares "this is a show about legend. We take the legend of Queen and created our own fantastical story of young kids battling the mighty corporation which wants to suppress their individuality and their love of music. They need a hero who can help them in their struggle, and we have two -the dreamer, Galileo, and the sassy rock chick, Scaramouche."

New pop references have been added, not surprisingly one of which is Miley Cyrus and a new song, *You're My Best Friend*, which Queen-lovers will truly appreciate. Tribeca Theatrical Productions' Jane Rosenthal adds, "It's almost a new show. However, in some ways, it was already ahead of its time when it opened. The overarching theme is a demand for individualism and intimacy in a world where everything is downloadable." Elton points out, "There is a scene where our two leads run away and discuss their loneliness and isolation. In 2013 it seemed ridiculous to discuss friendship without reference to Facebook. Young people now live in a world where it's possible to have many virtual 'friends' and 'likes' and yet be totally isolated and alone." This is what compelled *You're My Best Friend* to be added to the show. Hennepin Theatre Trust is the group that brings *We Will Rock You* to Minneapolis.

## THE WONG KIDS IN THE SECRET OF THE SPACE CHUPACABRA

Through Nov. 17

Children's Theatre's Cargill

Stage, 2400 Third Av. S., Mpls.  
 (612) 874-0400  
[www.childrenstheatre.org](http://www.childrenstheatre.org)

This is surely one of the most effective examples of the sci-fi comic book and graphic novel approach ever applied to theater. Cranky eighth-grader Violet (Sasha Diamond) and her telepathically-inclined nerdy younger brother, Bruce (Alton Alburo), must save the universe by becoming superheroes. The play's action shifts to various dimensions to thrilling effect thanks to scenic designer Meredith Ries, sound designed by Shane Rettig, and lighting by Paul Whitaker. As cheesy as writer Lloyd Suh's dialogue is, it says a lot about the need to accept others for being different. And not just racially, but in other ways. No, I'm not saying we are post-racial. But sometimes the equality movements compel and impel many people to see those basic socio-political differences—race, gender, sexual orientation, ability – as the whole picture. But they are not the whole story of course. Behavior, image, personal history and demeanor count as standards for acceptance and rejection.

*The Wong Kids* is a production of New York's Ma-Yi Theatre presented at the Children's Theatre. That it champions children and positive images of Asian-Americans is admirable. However, it contains a regrettable cross-gender character with grotesque bare breasts and deliberately flabby orange skin, both intended to be scary and evil. Costume designer Becky Bodurtha and director Ralph B. Pena should have seriously re-thought this. Unfortunately, the youthful audience is impressionable and this representation makes an ugly imprint. We are constantly told how the white and African-American communities have strong swathes of queer-phobia. Ironically, Asian-American activists were railing against the Ordway's recent hosting of *Miss Saigon* because of its purported negative Asian-American images. But there has been little objection by queer activists over the CTC/Ma-Yi production. (Full disclosure: I have written and spoken publicly at a U of M Asian American Law Students forum in defense of *Miss Saigon* and of the ill-conceived campaign that has long been waged against it.) □





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Jazz performer at American Jazz Museum. Photo by Carla Waldemar

## BAR (B-CUE) NONE [OR] 'CUE UP IN KC

Sorry, French Laundry. Give it up, Per Se. You didn't top Calvin Trillin's list. The eminent food writer has famously declared that the best restaurant in the entire country is—drum roll—Arthur Bryant's Barbecue—by extraordinary coincidence, in Calvin's home town, Kansas City.

I'm here to verify that claim. The way devout pilgrims crawl on their knees to Lourdes, I pay homage to the pitmasters at Bryant's. And I'm not alone. The line out the modest storefront's door is a pastiche of business suits, cops' uniforms, sports legends' jerseys, and truckers' denims. Autographed photos of pleased patrons run from Count Basie to Bill Clinton (and there are 200 barbecue joints here in KC to choose from). These ribs bristle with a hickory-blackened crust, their fat left behind in the pit, and served naked. Slather them, if you wish, with Bryant's trinity of sauces—original (tart), spicy, or sweet. Ignore their bedding of Wonder Bread and enjoy. (Note: Bryant's has gone a bit uppity. On previous visits, a roll of paper towels anchored each table. Today, it's paper napkins.)

A mixed marriage in KC, abhorred by relations on both sides, involves a fan of Bryant's wedded to a Gates aficionado. Branded by a silhouette of a gent in a top hat, Gates Bar-B-Q is a bit more genteel. They actually greet customers instead of barking at them. Gates' ribs are uber-tender, almost dainty by KC standards, backed by a similarly addictive smoked brisket.

But wait, as they say: there's more! We'd joined KC BBQ Tours ([www.kcbarbecuetours.com](http://www.kcbarbecuetours.com)) for a four-hour, four-pit expedition, which included some under-the-radar local secrets like L.C.'s. Pushed by popular demand, Mississippi-born L.C. Richardson has expanded his no-frills joint from three to six tables, for which he flame-broils his bones 'til they're supremely flavorful and juicy. Likewise, his burnt ends.

Woodyard Barbecue—which started out selling wood to DIYers—now sells meat as well. And thank goodness. The burnt-end chili is a winner, as is the homemade sausage. But the real treat is the pork butt, smoked five hours over pear wood. (At what temp, I inquired.

"Optimum" was the succinct answer.) Anyway, smoked 'til "barking," which means the charred end of the brisket is ready to be scraped off, and the whole thing started over.

Well, four 'cue joints wasn't quite enough for us, so a pal and I waddled over to Oklahoma Joe's, a former gas station-turned-gastronomic with what local polls contend is the best of the best, and I'll give 'em credit. After standing in line over an hour—it's de rigueur—we savored (read: slobbered over) the best pulled pork on the planet—juicy, flush with flavor, and topped with slaw. Plus a plate of beyond-wonderful burnt ends. Worth the drive? Worth the airfare!

But KC doesn't live on bones alone, not on your James Beard medals. We gussied up for dinner and headed to Bluestem, where Corby Garrelts proves why he was chosen Best Chef Midwest. My picks on his five-course menu of local flavors started with aerated foie gras with wild plums, coffee-cardamom "soil," ice cream and honey (!), followed by risotto dotted with nettles, then arctic char atop eggplant and sweet



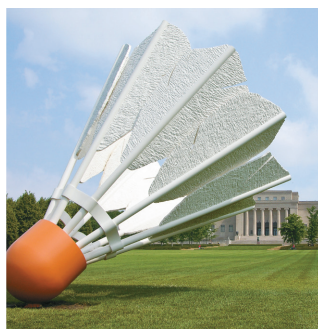
onions. Missouri hen paired with Kansas duck alongside squash, duck fat aplenty, and “pears off the trees of Missouri,” preceding a grand finale of pumpkin fritter gilded with creme fraiche, black tea, salted caramel, pumpkin seeds, and candied squash. Between each course appears a little “surprise” from the kitchen.

Garrelts recently added Rye to his resume. “Bluestem features how I was taught, but I grew up eating what we serve here,” he explains. “It’s actually okay to love those things again, even if they’re not high-tech. It’s cooking from the heart. No one cooks fried chicken anymore, and people are ready for it again. Ready to get back to their culinary roots.” Are we ever! Those Amish chickens take the prize. Corby brines them, then adds baking powder to their flour coating for super-crispiness. The kitchen goes through 400 pounds of chicken a week, with good reason. And its accompanying veggies (think corn soup, heirloom tomato and arugula salad, kale, okra) come from family-run farms.

Michel Smith, another Beard winner, put KC on the dining map when he chefed at the elite American Restaurant. Now as master of his eponymous café, he favors New American dining. Right beside it in the Crossroads District, his newest, Extra Virgin, offers offbeat tapas of Asian-to-Latin flavors. In both, he puts diners first (and isn’t that a novel idea?). “I think about how the customer is eating the food,” rather than photo-op plate presentations. Start with ultra-local tomato and peach salad (genius combo), then proceed to braised rabbit upon gnocchi with shiitakes and Parmesan. Or pork cheeks with roasted plums, haricots verts, and lentils. Or ruby trout with succotash, chanterelles and a lime-carrot sauce. Step next door to push the envelope with adventurous starters like his best-selling duck tongue tacos (“I go through 35 pounds a week”) or crispy pig’s ear salad. There are tuna ceviche tacos for the more mainstream palate, along with wood-fired poblano mac and cheese, and chicken thighs stuffed with figs and chorizo. “Almost every chef in town has worked for me,” says Smith, “and when they’re ready to go out on their own, I help them with their business plan. I teach them that the way to get good at their jobs is—travel!”

Affaire is a brand-new dinner stop favoring modern takes on Germanic cooking (and yes, the familiar wiener schnitzel/sausages fare, too). Lidia’s represents the 15-year-old outpost of bold-name Italian chef Lidia Bastianich, who picked KC for her first venture outside NYC. She pours her own privately-labeled wines with her fritto misto, and more.

Then it’s down to the West Bottoms, near the Farmers Market, for Adam Northcraft’s Local Pig, a butcher shop/charcuterie calling on humanely-raised meats from local farms to produce the 350 pounds of primo bacon he goes through weekly, plus bacon pate, sriracha head cheese, coppa with tangerine and sage, and yummy sandwiches. For a grand finale, inhale the bonbons from Christopher Elbow Artisanal Chocolates. Elbow also worked at the famed American Restaurant before concentrating on his passion. Best seller: fleur de sel caramels, followed by chocolate-enrobed raspberry jelly, all small-batch, hand-painted jewels. “Look for balance between the filling and the chocolate,” Elbow counsels.



BBQ from L.C.’s. Photo by Carla Waldemar; Welson Atkins Museum of Art, photo courtesy of iStockphoto.com; Bartenders at historic Rieger Hotel, photo by Carla Waldemar; First Friday gallery exhibit at the Crossroads Art District, photo courtesy of iStockphoto.com

Okay, KC also knows how to mix a mean cocktail. Belly up to the bar at the classic Rieger Hotel, where mixmasters shake a mean Unicycle (aperol, grapefruit, vodka, sparkling wine) and Pendergast, named for the city’s notorious political boss during the days of Prohibition, during which in KC, never mind, booze continued to flow freely.

## SIDEBAR: BETWEEN BITES

18th & Vine: This was THE place to be for KC’s African-American community in the ’20s and beyond, buoyed by new arrivals from the South seeking jobs and education. The vibrant crossroads had it all: bars, jazz club, social clubs, doctors, stores and restaurants in the days where Blacks couldn’t try on clothes or get a bite to eat downtown. Jazz greats played till dawn, when folks headed first to church, then to the ball game, dressed to the nines. The story comes to life in the American Jazz Museum, (Charlie Parker, Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald)—live concerts, too—and the Negro League Baseball Museum, whose Black all-stars prevailed over challenges like no hotel room, railroad car nor diner to serve them on the road, culminating in the breakthrough by Jackie Robinson in 1947. National World War I Museum: “Where the story of way is told from everybody’s point of view,” and 9,000 red poppies represent the 9,000,000

dead. The “great adventure” imagined of flashing sabers and brave deeds soon gave way to the grim reality of stalemate in the trenches, “a place of despair” for four long years, as vividly portrayed through first-hand accounts and artifacts. Got art? The home/studio of Thomas Hart Benton, Missouri’s most famous painter and the first-ever artist to grace the cover of *TIME* magazine, showcases the man who chose to produce “common art for the common man,” including the mural in the Presidential Library of his pal, Harry Truman. The Nelson Atkins Museum sports classics, starting with notable Egyptian and Chinese collections, on through the bold names of European painters, with Claes Oldenberg’s ginormous shuttlecocks anchoring the lawn. Check out its “Here and Queer” tours. Nearby, the Kemper spotlights contemporary art. Even more contempo are the indie galleries of the Crossroads District, with 10,000 admirers cruising the streets every First Friday. October’s FF hailed LGBT Human Rights Month, where the boys convened—as always—at Hamburger Mary’s. Gay KC: Show-Me Pride, in early June, draws 30,000 visitors. Gay Film Fest, later in June, is another hit. Visit bars Missie B’s for drag shows and dancing; Bistro 303 for an upscale, all-out time; and Out Abounds, sports bar supreme. Hotel Phillips (chic renovation of a classic property) is ultra-welcoming. For info, [www.visitkc.com](http://www.visitkc.com) or 888-474-8520. ■

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ON THE RECORD | Ed Huyck



### ELTON JOHN *The Diving Board*

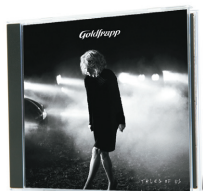
I wouldn't call Elton John's recent releases as a late-career renaissance, but they at least make up for the wilderness he was lost in during much of the '80s and '90s, when the best work came out of the mouth of a lion cub. Working with longtime musical partner Bernie Taupin, John produces a solid collection of new tunes here that work off of his two strongest gifts – his distinctive piano playing and voice – without any embarrassing attempts to update the sound. It's a largely low-key affair that passes along like a gentle and sleepy afternoon, reaching its peak on the title track's bluesy shuffle and a few short piano interludes that hint at some musical ideas that would have been worth exploring.



### JANELLE MONÁE *The Electric Lady Suites IV and V*

Eclectic soul singer Monáe calls in the heavy hitters early on her latest album, employing Prince ("Givin' 'Em What They Love"), Erykah Badu ("Queen"), and Beyoncé-sibling Solange ("Electric Lady") on the album's opening three cuts. While the extra wattage helps, Monáe has plenty of star power on her own. Working with a

vocal style that is equal parts sultry and strident, Monáe reminds us that dance pop music doesn't need to be brainless. After all, the album is the latest in her string of releases portraying her as a futuristic musical android and notes that the track "Dance Apocalyptic" is "inspired by Michael Jackson's Jheri curl in 'Thriller' and Bo Diddley's tremolo guitar playing." (I can totally hear it.)



### GOLDFRAPP *Tales of Us*

As the weather turns to autumn and winter, the frantic sounds of the summer can be left behind for something quieter, darker and more contemplative. Goldfrapp – first name Alison, joined by musical partner Will Gregory – pioneered the modern electronic sound during the last decade and chart an icy-cold musical approach here that is one part Cocteau Twins, one part the Cure and a third part Fairport Convention. I'm always thrilled when an act has the musical convictions to push their music into fresh territory and the consistent frozen tone beautifully underscores the lyrical messages in the songs. Even when they push the pace a touch (such as on "Thea") the chill doesn't leave. All of that works together for a beautiful and tense collection.



### AVICCI *True*

When I think of the Swedes and music, I think of tight and bright pop music and filthy punk rock and metal. DJ Tim Bergling is much closer to the first camp (though there is a bit of heavy attitude), merging a vibe that takes cues from the likes of Daft Punk and Moby and melding it with a bevy of guest vocalists. That ranges from the likes of soul singer Aloe Blacc (opener "Wake Me Up"), Adam Lambert ("Lay Me Down"), and folk singer Dan Tyminski ("Hey Brother"). While surrounded with all of this talent, Bergling doesn't let you lose sight of what brought you to the party, producing songs that not only drive with danceable beats but add actual hooks and content to bring you back. □



# WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS



Lynx Head Coach, Cheryl Reeve. Photo by Sophia Hantzes

by Shane Lueck

The Minnesota Lynx are lethal. There is no denying that when all facts are considered. Fact: the team has made it to the finals for three straight years, coming away with the WNBA championship title twice. Fact: they hold the most wins (read: 99) in a three-season span in league history and this year they became the second team in league history to go 7-0 in the playoffs. Fact: the team has four WNBA All-Stars on a line up that isn't changing anytime soon with recent contract extensions. Fact: with the second youngest roster in the league, the Lynx players are still in their prime and ready for a repeat of an excellent season next year.

In a state whose sports teams tend to leave fans wanting more, the Lynx gave Minnesotans a chance to laud a dominant team. All of the ingredients were there for an outstanding season - and what a godsend it was! Before the Lynx's 2011 championship win, it had been twenty years since Minnesota celebrated a championship win with the 1991 World Champion Minnesota Twins baseball team. Wallowing in the foibles of teams like the Twins, Vikings, and Timberwolves season after season, Minnesota sports fans were beginning to lose hope. But wait; enter the Lynx.

Despite boasting three Olympians among an all-star returning lineup, most of the women's basketball world heralded the Phoenix Mercury as the team to beat for the season. But the Minnesota Lynx made that difficult. With attention focused away from the team, the Lynx were able to have their skill showcased and speak for itself. Without the pressure of having won a championship the year before (like last year's season) the Lynx were able to begin the season flying under the radar as the underdogs...until that just wasn't possible anymore. Coming out of a very noticeable 26-8 regular season record, the Lynx hit the playoffs

with a winning momentum that just kept going. "Opening the season with the attention on other teams afforded us the opportunity to fly under the radar and give undivided attention to our stated goals of being the best in the West and bring another championship to Minnesota," says Carley Knox, the director of business operations for the team.

Never losing a game in the playoffs, the Lynx recorded double-digit victories in five of the seven games, setting the stage for the championship game. The opposing team, the Atlanta Dream, entered the playoffs coming off a four-game losing streak in the regular season and a record of 17-17. The Dream did, however, have a split record against the Lynx winning one of the two games played against them in the regular season.

The Lynx controlled Game 1 against the Dream from the opening tip ending with an 84-59 victory. Entering Game 2, the Lynx were brimming with confidence as a message on the video board just before the opening tip read "Game 1 we made a statement. Game 2 we will make history. We're leaving Minnesota after tonight, but we'll be bringing something back with us" followed by an image of the championship trophy. Sure enough, an 88-63 victory sent the Lynx off to Georgia to battle it out in what would become the third and final game in the best-of-five series.

Ending with an 86-77 lead, the Lynx clinched a 2013 Championship title and returned home for a parade in front of thousands of fans along Nicollet Mall, ending in a party at Target Center earlier this month.

Knox says, "As defending champions in 2014, there will be great motivation to become the first team to win back-to-back titles in the WNBA in over 10 years." The Minnesota Lynx set a standard, and now it's time for everyone else to catch up.



# WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS



Photo by Sophia Hantzes



Photo by Sophia Hantzes



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# WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS



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## Bad Karma Captures Miss Gay 90's Crown

On Halloween evening, October 31, appropriately enough, at the La Femme Show Lounge, newcomer Bad Karma won the Miss Gay 90's Contest, with a \$500 cash award. In front of a large and appreciative audience, she emerged on top of a field of five contestants: Scotia, Octavia Bonet, Mercedes Iman, Shanice Rodgers, and Bad Karma. The contest consisted of three categories—evening gown, question and answer, and talent—with Bad Karma sweeping the latter. Longtime La Femme Show Director Nina Di Angelo emceed the event. Last year's Miss Gay 90's, perennial titleholder Geneva Richards, stepped down from her title, although she continues to reign as Miss City of the Lakes. Along with Di Angelo and Richards, other La Femme performers, including Prada Diamond, displayed their awesome talent at the contest. The La Femme ensemble is onstage Wednesday through Sunday at the Gay 90's.

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Bad Karma, the new Miss Gay 90's. Photo by George Holdgrafer

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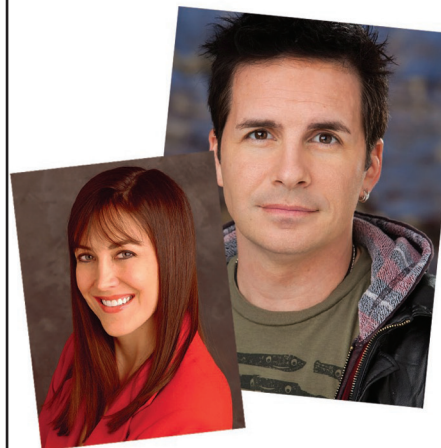
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## BAR SHOWCASE | photos by George Holdgrafer

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## GAY 90'S OCTOBER 31



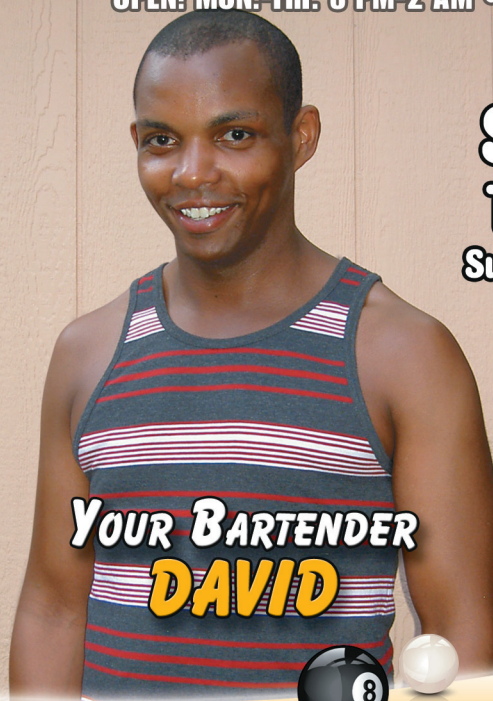
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## Interview with Andy Cross, International Mr. Leather 2013

Andy Cross, the current International Mr. Leather (IML) titleholder, will be in Minneapolis this weekend as one of the judges of the Mr. Minneapolis Eagle 2014 contest. I recently called him in San Francisco and asked a few questions.

**Did you have any childhood inklings that leather might someday be an interest of yours?**

My first memory of leather—and it has stuck with me all these years, so it's pretty formidable, I guess—is when my uncle, my father's brother, came to visit us one time. He was a motorcycle guy and came in wearing chaps and a leather jacket. I wasn't so much attracted to him as attracted to the leather. I remember, he let me wear his jacket, and I thought it was the coolest thing. I loved the smell of it. There was just something that was inherently manly and sexy about the leather for some reason. And it's been a turn-on ever since.

**What went through your mind when your name was called as International Mr. Leather 2013?**

It was so great because I wasn't expecting it at all. And I think the thing that meant the most to me was that there were a lot of San Francisco people in the audience, some of the guys who had helped me prepare.

**How has your title year been so far?**

It's been busy, but it's been fantastic. It's definitely been the ride of my life. I've met so many people and seen so many cool things.

One of the most rewarding things is that I've had the opportunity to visit communities and tell them what other communities do. For instance, one of my very first trips was to Des Moines, and they have a really large young leather community there—which is fantastic! Then I go to another community, and in talking to them they say that they don't have the young leather community. I have the opportunity to spread the fire, so to speak, and say Des Moines does this, and it attracted all these young people.

And I get to visit cool places. I was in Alaska a few weeks ago. I'm going to Europe in a few months. I was in Texas a few days

ago. And I'm going to Los Angeles on Thursday.

**And you're coming to Minneapolis to be one of the judges for this year's Mr. Minneapolis Eagle Contest.**

I am. I'm looking forward to it.

**What other contests have you judged as IML?**

I've judged Mr. Michigan Leather, and I just judged the Mr. Third Coast Leather contest in Houston. Next week I judge the Mr. Regiment Leather contest in L.A. I have a lot of contests coming up in November, and also in January and February.

**As you judge the Mr. Minneapolis Eagle contest, what will you be looking for?**

I'll be looking for someone that I want to talk to. Especially in an interview, I'm not necessarily looking at the content of their answers or what their opinions on certain things are, because everyone has their own opinions. I'm looking to see if they're genuinely a nice guy, and if I approached them in a bar or at a party, would I want to talk to them? Would I want to hear what the leather community is like in Minneapolis if they were telling me? That's really the most important thing that I look for.

**What do you want to accomplish during your title year?**

That was actually one of my questions during the IML interview. The question actually was, fast-forward a year and you're IML—what would you want to be remembered for? And my answer was kind of what I already said, being a conduit of information



Photo by Steve Lenius

between regions or communities. I mean, that's how we grow as a community, and that's how we change, and I think growing and changing is essential.

**Have you thought about what you want to do after your title year is over?**

Sleep in at least for one weekend! But other than that, like I said before, I'm having the ride of my life, and I love it right now. So I guess I'll have to cross that bridge when it comes. □



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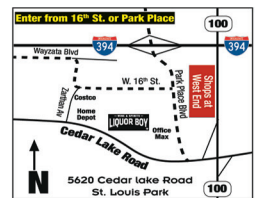
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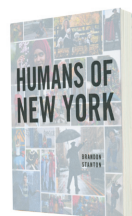
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**SPIRITED AWAY: A NO ORDINARY WOMEN MYSTERY**  
Barbara Deese  
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Friends Robin Bentley and Cate Running Wolf of the No Ordinary Women book club now have mothers living in Meadowpoint Manor residence. Another resident is ninety-six-year-old Era Dudley, who insists her son, Winston, has gone missing. She knows the pair solved

an earlier case (Murder at Spirit Falls) and insists they find him. How old is Winston? "Thirty-four..." Is Era in la-la land, or is there something to her claim? Deese not only spins a good yarn, but deftly presents the nuances of old age and the quirks, foibles—and shrewdness—of Era and her cronies. To solve the mystery, Robin and Cate must depend on the strengths of their elders, and in so doing realize that Time will not spare the No Ordinary Women.



**ONE DEAD COOKIE**  
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Olivia Greyson just wants to bake and decorate cookies at The Gingerbread House, but murder will intrude. As *One Dead Cookie* opens, Olivia is working on the treats for her best friend Maddie's engagement party when soap star actor, Trevor Lane, a native of Charterley Height's neighboring town of Twiterton, is found dead on her porch. Bad. Worse, the actor's face has been branded with a cookie cutter. Worst, Olivia's and Maddie's friend Stacy is implicated in the foul deed. Further inquiries show that many of the townsfolk, including the deceased's childhood friend and manager, have long-held grudges against him. Lowell works back through the skeins of plot and delivers another well-crafted cozy, ending with a showdown at the engagement fête. Two delicious recipes follow.



**MURDER AND THE HURDY GURDY GIRL**  
Kate McLachlan  
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This lesbian historical romance is filled with all the flash and dash, love and larceny that the reader could desire. Wanted by the police for killing her lover/benefactor, a quintessential robber baron, Susan Bantry has fled to the north Idaho mining town of Needle's Eye, currently working as a hurdy gurdy girl in a saloon. Enter Jo Erin, Susan's childhood friend, now a cross-dressing Pinkerton agent who has, because of her previous connection with Susan, been sent to track her down. Jo has her own agenda, having had feelings for Susan through the years. All this plays out against the background of a mining war with its attendant murder and betrayal. Nicely drawn characters, and one of the most nail-biting mine escapes since Zola's *Germinal*. □



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By Joy Summers

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[ HOLIDAY HOME & GARDEN ]



## CHEFS WHO COOK LIKE A BAND MAKING ITS FIRST ALBUM

The menu included some sandwiches; a pastrami for \$9.00 sounded good, but they also had an incredibly affordable tasting menu that I couldn't resist as I saw trays of charcuterie carried past me like bobbing displays of meat jewels. Sandwiches and a tasting menu? I was dubious until it arrived. What was happening inside my mouth was nothing quaint or adorable. There were textures, aromas, flavors that I felt like someone slipped me some hallucinogenics. Was I actually tasting a smell? Did that flavor have a color? Am I seriously in Robbinsdale?

It's something to look back at the history of Travail and realize that they opened just a couple of years ago. In that time, the main men of Travail have become fixtures in the local dining scene and darlings on a national level. Andrew Knowlton of *Bon Appetit Magazine* named Travail Kitchen and Amusements one of the Best New Restaurants enthusing that they boasted, "Chefs who cook like a band making its first album, i.e., without limits."

At this moment, they're a band that has gone back into the studio to contemplate that all-important sophomore outing. And, like a band (and because they clearly can't sit still), Bob Gerken, James Winberg, Kale Thome, and Mike Brown have also created two entirely new restaurants in the meanwhile that have been popping up around town, Pig Ate My Pizza and Umami. Now, they're set to reveal their new baby, Travail and The Rookery, a collaboration of artists that transcends the food world.

They decided to briefly shutter the original location, a cozy spot in downtown Robbinsdale. After rearranging furniture into long, communal tables and nailing some reclaimed wood here and there, it was reopened as Pig Ate My Pizza. Inside, there are

(From top left) Roulade of Skate and summer sausage, Israeli couscous, mandarin orange, fennel; House made Tofu, black morel mushroom, fava bean & puree, black olive tapenade, baby beets, lemon foam; Pork Ice Cream Cone, potato, chanterelle mushroom, baby bok choy. Photos by Austin Lindstrom





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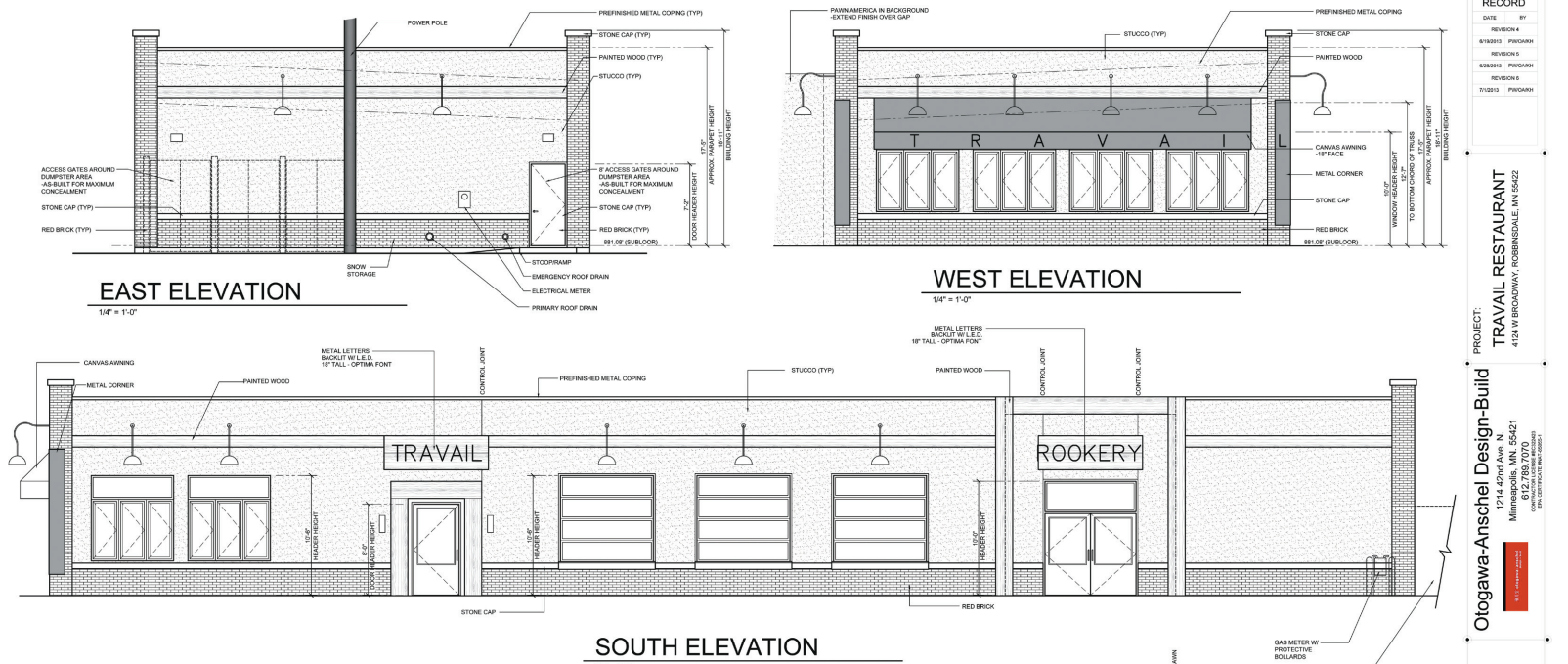


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Plans and renderings of what Travail and The Rookery will be, united in the middle by the Otogawa+Anschel wiggly bar.

## OTOGAWA-ANSCHSEL HAS A LOT IN COMMON WITH THE WAY TRAVAIL OPERATES

decadent dishes like house-made tater tots of fluffy potato and bacon called Hog Tots and a pizza with an herby brioche crust topped with unctuous pork delights known as the Piggy Pie. Additionally, there are the usual theatrics including a smoked pizza served under glass that is presented with a flourish as it's uncovered and the woody perfume is released to beckon the nasal cavity and tongue.

They then moved to a new part of town, North Minneapolis. Off Broadway Avenue, in an old fried chicken spot, they opened the new Umami, now operating as Umami Dim Sum. The pop-up's space is filled with a guerrilla art theme with cherry branches painted on the walls and room for an enormous liquid nitrogen container (because flash-freezing is never far away in the midst of a Travailian meal). Wood flooring was transformed into long, communal table tops. Mason jars work as glassware.

In these two endeavors, it is clear that their style of taking expectation and turning them on their ears isn't limited only to what is on the plate (or in their case, the occasional serving plank). The chef/owners aren't concerned with just changing perceptions. They clearly care about green construction, making the most out of natural elements and affecting the way diners experience their dinners through design (these are the guys that created both a meat umbrella and a

foie gras tree). But, they were also ready to do a little growing up.

Their urban foraging for furniture and aesthetic pieces has worked incredibly well for both Pig Ate My Pizza and Umami. And, they clearly possess great ingenuity. Take those elements and add them to their sophomore status and the come to the conclusion that the next evolution of Travail Kitchen and Amusements (with their cocktail and small plates space, The Rookery) would require a touch of refinement. The next step would involve entirely new construction. For once, they wouldn't be able to do everything themselves. So, they found a partner for the new project in Otogawa-Anschel Design + Build.

Known for their eco-friendly building, Otogawa-Anschel has a lot in common with the way Travail operates. They're relatively small group, locally focused, operate as a collective, and are inspired by finding new answers to staid building perceptions. Things like 'every new kitchen needs an island' are reconsidered by Michael Anschel: "It gets in the way! We want to develop a functional space because where does everyone gather in a home? It's always in a kitchen." Although, designing a commercial space is entirely different from a residential project, there were still some ideas that Otogawa-Anschel had used before that could work on this entirely grand, new level. Others? Well, they'd just have to create something unlike anything the world had ever experienced



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# THE WALLS ARE MADE OF A SUPER-INSULATED, HIGH-EFFICIENCY MATERIAL THAT LOOKS LIKE AN ICE CREAM SANDWICH.

before. See? Not so dissimilar to Travail.

The new location is just a couple of storefronts down the street from the original Travail-turned-Pig Ate My Pizza. They demolished two buildings, but the new restaurant space will all be housed within four walls. (It's next to Walgreen's, which wouldn't be of note, except that this is how everyone in Robbinsdale describes it: two shops down, on Main Street, next to Walgreen's.) As to the way the building will fit in with the rest of Robbinsdale, the front will feature a red brick similar to many of the other buildings of the area, both historic and new. They also partnered with the city to come up with creative solutions for parking (the location will have 12 parking spaces... here's hoping they're going to offer some valet options).

The walls are made of a super-insulated, high-efficiency material that looks like an ice cream sandwich. Two pieces of plywood are filled completely with an expanded polystyrene core material (not unlike a solid block of the stuff inside a bean bag chair) and, together, are called Structural Insulated Panels. Using these materials as walls will mean that heating and cooling costs will be significantly less for the restaurant. There is also an added benefit that the walls will help absorb not only air, but sound. One of the biggest challenges for a restaurant is walking the tightrope between boisterous-party-level and din-level noise. No one likes shouting across a table. This will allow both the fun times to roll around inside The Rookery, but won't detract from the multi-course meal experience at the revived Travail.

These "green" blocks are made locally in Cottonwood, Minnesota. Because they're cut specifically for this project and reduce the need much additional traditional structural wood framing, the amount of waste created from the construction project is considerably less. So far, as the walls have gone up and the ceiling put in place, they have yet to fill even one dumpster with construction waste. Not only is the material incredibly strong, they will never have to worry about find-

Structural Insulated Panels for fast, green walls. Photo by Hubert Bonnet



ing a stud to hang a picture. This will likely prove well for the restaurant as they don't tend to do things that stay the same for very long. It's a constant evolution for these creative minds and this building will allow them to continue to grow.

I asked Anshel when he first became aware of Travail. "I'm a food guy. If you follow me on Twitter, you'll see half my Tweets are all about food. We're known for doing interesting, fun work with an edge and a focus on sustainability. It was a natural fit. I've known about these guys since they worked back at Victory 44 (the Minneapolis restaurant where the



Loup de Mer 2 ways, ribeye, mandarin orange, orange candy chip, chili powder. Photo by Austin Lindstrom

founding chefs first worked together)."

It also happens to be one of the few commercial, new construction projects that Otagawa-Anshel has worked on, being a primarily residential firm. "It's really just a big house," Anshel joked. And how people experience a residential space is something that brought an important knowledge base to this restaurant project; how to make a restaurant work for not only the chefs but also the guests.

Guests will enter the Travail Kitchen and Amusements/The Rookery space and encounter different zones intended for different uses, being that there are actually two different restaurants in the one building. The chefs will be working from two separate kitchens, although the rooms adjoin. This works well for guests as they experience an evening with these innovative chefs. If you aren't already aware of this, Travail has never taken reservations and they aren't about to start now. (There's a theory that part of the reason their Kick-

Continued on page 42 ➔

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Stone for the surfaces of Travail and The Rookery as supplied by Amsum & Ash. Photos courtesy of Amsum & Ash

## THE ROOKERY WILL SERVE THOSE DAZZLING COCKTAILS AS WELL AS A SMALLER A LA CARTE MENU

starter campaign was so wildly successful—raising over \$250,000—was that one benefit for backers giving \$250 or more was line-jumping.) For the rest of us, part of the experience of a Travail dinner is hanging out at the bar, soaking in that rock ‘n’ roll lifestyle while we wait (sometimes over an hour) for an opportunity to dine with them.

Inside the new space, guests can congregate around the wiggly bar. The design concept is something that Otagawa-Anschel has used before. They pointed out that at any bar, the conversation is often stilted. While it’s the best place to watch the cocktail shakers do their work, you’re left sitting as if riding the bus, next to a person you barely look at. In Minnesota terms, perhaps that’s fine for all strangers, but if you’re on a date, it kind of blows. If you’re meeting acquaintances, it takes on an awkward confessional feel. (I will tell you my thoughts, but we must never make eye contact or I will be forced to make my Dramatic Telenovela face.) The wiggly bar allows divots and turns, space where people can get closer to the bar and creates a natural turn in the body language. Not only can you see the cocktails being created, but you can also drink in the company you chose to keep. Anschel pointed out that you can also get more seats at a bar using the wiggly approach; one they have already become known for in their kitchen designs.

The seats at the bar inside The Rookery will no doubt be ground zero for a whole new floor show that many have not experienced before. The original incarnation of the restaurant only had a beer and wine license and didn’t mix drinks. The full-liquor bar here will come with the same dazzling pyrotechnics we’ve come to expect from these guys. James Winberg and Bob Gerken recently competed in Minneapolis’ Iron Bartender competition, sponsored by the North Star Bartenders Guild. This is a showcase for the best in local mixology. Top honors are hard won and against well-known craft cocktail makers like Parlour, Eat Street Social, and La Belle Vie, and these chefs from Travail made it all the way until the semi-finals. (They were beaten by the Marvel Bar team, who would go on to win the competition.)

The cocktails they made defied expectation, utilizing liquid nitrogen, incorporating “urban foraging” from the cedar trees outside the venue, and, above all else, tasted incredible. They carbonated sodas in a homemade rigged-up fashion, moments before serving them. Something as simple as warm booze accented with a vanilla bean became a transformative beverage adventure full of all the comforts of a mother’s hug. There is no convention that can contain these guys.

In the Travail space, every meal will be a 10-course tasting menu affair. Guests will come (possibly wait in line) and enjoy the dishes

pouring forth from the kitchen that particular evening. The thought and intention of the room design are all geared so that the chefs can interact with their people. Tables will be available in both communal and two-top sizes. While all of their other restaurants have taken on entirely communal seating, this room will also allow for intimate dates for like-minded foodies. There will also be a chefs’ table in the kitchen that will seat parties of 4-6 who really want a front-row view of all the action.

The Rookery will serve those dazzling cocktails as well as a smaller a la carte menu, where eaters and pick and choose their Travailian tastes. It will be even more affordable than the restaurant (which will have a set cost, but still likely less than some other fine-dining tasting menus in town).

The building will have plenty of windows, encouraging a lot of beautiful, natural light—something Instagram-ers will appreciate for capturing every beautiful food picture possible. The “hot tub” seat will also be making a return and there will be clear garage doors that roll open for outdoor access.

The interior will have industrial notes mixed with reclaimed wood, doors and open ceilings where you’ll be able to see all the trusses and duct work. Also, there will be stuffed animals. Oh yes, known for their extensive collection, those snugglies will be transformed into what’s known in the business as a “soundcloud.” Expect to see them packed together, floating through the ceiling and absorbing a bit of the extra noise. The floors will be hand-scraped hickory from Manomin Resawn Timbers and a few of the accent walls will be graced with a special rock veneer from Amsum & Ash that is curved, creating this organic-appearing form from a surface not known for its flexibility.

Bendy rocks, wiggly bars, food pyrotechnics, clouds of stuffed animals, revelatory cocktails, and a merry band of chef servers turning the food world on its ear: it’s a lot to take in at once. Plus, did we mention it’s in downtown Robbinsdale? Up is down, left is under, and who knows what else we’ll discover in this new destination hot spot? We’ll find out when they open, which is slated to happen before the clock strikes 2014. ■

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

**Travail Kitchen & Amusements**  
[www.facebook.com/Travailkitchen](https://www.facebook.com/Travailkitchen)

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# LISA ANTENUCCI HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS



*The leaves have begun to fall, there is morning frost on your windshield, and the days are getting shorter. Forget about setting a reminder in your smart phone, nature is always on cue to remind us yearly that with the change of season comes the most wonderful time of year; the holidays. Twinkling lights begin to line neighborhoods and city streets, cars drive around with trees strapped to their hood, stores fill their aisles with holiday table cloths, centerpieces, ornaments, silverware, candles and knick knacks, all to get us in the mood to celebrate this time of year with friends, coworkers and families. We can just feel the excitement building! This is the time of year when many of us open our homes to friends and family and in many ways design can help facilitate in creating a pleasant experience for both the owner and their guests.*

Accessible and inviting kitchen. Photo by Greer Photo





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WHEN OPENING YOUR HOME TO OTHERS IT IS IMPORTANT TO MAKE IT FEEL ACCESSIBLE AND INVITING.

A well-designed home is tailored to the needs of the user, whether it be a kitchen built for two cooks or an artist studio filled with natural light. When opening your home to others it is important to make it feel accessible and inviting. When we begin to design a home, the very first thing we do is sit down with the client and listen to their needs, desires, and wants. Do they have children and what age are they? Are they planning to have children? Do they work from home? Do they cook or is their neighborhood pizza joint on speed dial? During this “getting to know you phase,” entertaining often comes up. What kind of entertaining do you like to do? Do you have couples over for a well-prepared, sit-down meal? Cocktail parties for friends before hitting the club? Groups over for the big game? Large gatherings with dancing and parties that last all night? Or, do you host overnight guests? Is your entertaining more formal, where everyone is seated at the table, or more casual, where people tend to huddle around the kitchen island? These are the questions that create an understanding of how the home is used day to day and at special occasions. This process can be a bit personal but the more a client shares with us the better and will lead to a home that is well-designed to fit their lifestyle.

Each move we make in designing a home—whether it be the size and kind of a space, the placement of a window, or a material choice—we make with specific intent and awareness of how someone lives their life, what they value, and, more specifically, how they want their home to function. We are trained to know that even the simplest moves can improve a person’s wellbeing - well placed windows can enhance moods and increase productivity, wellbeing of children can be ensured by views to play areas, and overall safety of the neighborhood can be heightened with views to the street. We can design to allow people to recycle more easily, create spaces for working at home, and make



A decorative sliding door can transform an open living area into a cozy dining space for intimate dinner parties. Photos by Rik Sferra



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## [ HOLIDAY HOME & GARDEN ]



Opening up the kitchen as hub of both home and entertaining activities means more involvement and less isolation. Photo courtesy of Shelter

day to day maintenance of our homes simpler.

Everyone is different and a designer cannot make assumptions about someone's needs based on a stereotype. For example, if we look into what it means to design a home there could be a lot of presumptions made based upon gender. If we're looking at a lesbian couple we could assume that there might be different needs if two women are sharing a master bathroom. Perhaps both like to wear make-up and spend time styling their hair before getting ready for work in the morning. A vanity designed with adequate number of drawers to store small items might be more beneficial than an open vanity with doors. Two sinks with enough counter space, as opposed to one, would also give each woman their own area when getting ready at the same time. On the other hand, they both might just jump out of the shower, throw some gel in their hair and not look twice in the mirror before heading out so maybe they wouldn't care to add the extra costs of a second sink and faucet or additional drawers. Again, this is why the knowledge of how one uses the space, the family's daily routines, and their personal values is so important in the beginning stages of the design process.

With the holiday's approaching faster than one can save their pennies for presents, let's delve more specifically into how design can positively affect social interaction. For some of us, we have already retrieved our decorations from storage and have sent out the invites to our holiday parties. We look forward to this time of year when we can entertain and have our homes filled with laughter and joy. The design of the kitchen and social living areas can be a huge factor in fostering interaction during these times. In the Twin Cities, many of our homes were built at a time when each function happened in a specific room, but the way we live today we desire open floor plans where many activities happen within a space. The kitchen has become the heart and center of the home. It is a place where we cook, drink coffee, read the paper, help children with homework, and host glamorous holiday parties. By selectively tearing down walls and opening up the kitchen into the main living areas it allows the host to no longer be isolated in a kitchen but part of the action while prepping and preparing food. As formal dining rooms are beginning to disappear a larger kitchen island is becoming desired for a landing place for people standing around at parties and a place to sit and eat in a more casual dining experience.

Social living areas are also a key component during the holidays when we are hosting parties. Creating a variety of places for people

to gather, sit, and talk is important in making guests feel comfortable in your home. An open kitchen, as stated before, is a great place for people to mingle in larger groups around the island. Along with the main kitchen entertaining area having separate break off spaces, whether it be a living room filled with comfy seating, a kitchen table enclosed in an alcove, or window bench fit for two, will give your guests options for interacting or simply observing others based on their comfort level.

For some of us the holidays can be a bit stressful. Hosting out-of-town family members for a week or more can be daunting for both the guest and the host. For the most part we are used to having our own personal spaces to ourselves. A well-designed space addresses the fact that house guests and hosts alike can feel as though there is an occasional lack of privacy. If out-of-town guests are an annual occurrence, investing in a separate guest suite might be ideal in the design of a home. This can include a bedroom with an adjoining, or nearby, bathroom located away from the family bedrooms and baths. It could also include a separate living room for guest to escape and relax while you go about your daily activities. For same-sex couples this issue of privacy could come up more often. Family members or friends may be completely accepting of our lifestyles but may have a harder time being actually submerged in it daily. Giving yourself and your guests privacy might be the answer to making everyone feel comfortable during an extended visit.

Here is the best thing of all. When I sat down to consider the questions: "Do same-sex couples have different design needs? Are there concepts that need to be explored when hosting people for parties or family stays that are specific to same-sex couples?" I knew I needed to reflect more than my own experiences. So I posed the questions to some of our friends. One of them, a man in his 50s, hit the nail on the head: "The great thing about having greater acceptance and openness is that there are less and less differences/issues."

And maybe this is part of the point. People are people - the tides have changed and the differences are less important than the similarities. ■

Lisa Antenucci is an award winning dynamo at Shelter; an innovative, creative, yet accessible design studio specializing in the architecture and interior design of sustainable homes and unique commercial spaces. See her work at [shelterarchitecture.com](http://shelterarchitecture.com).





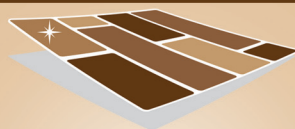
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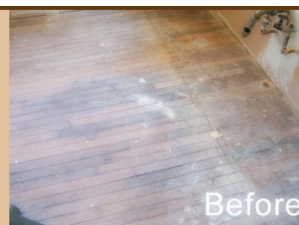
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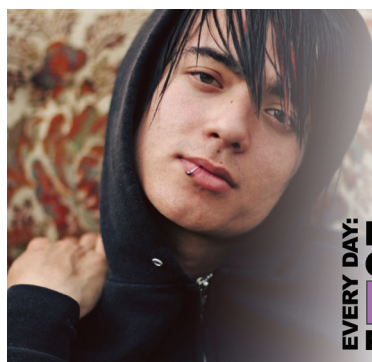
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# HOLIDAY MARKETPLACE

by Shane Lueck

## THANKSGIVING

### 1. Indian Corn Vintage Pillow

This one-of-a-kind pillow is entirely handcrafted by our friend, Ross Sveback. Sewn with an invisible zipper and stuffed with a removable down/feather insert for easy cleaning, the pillow is sure to add vintage charm to your space.

Ross Sveback  
\$150

[www.rosssveback.com](http://www.rosssveback.com)

### 2. Wheat Bundle

Accent your décor with the seasonal charm of the wheat bundle stacked bouquet. Perfect for a variety of settings, the bundle is made with real wheat stalks tied with twine and features a rich natural color.

Hayneedle  
\$31

[www.hayneedle.com](http://www.hayneedle.com)

### 3. Pilgrim Tabletop Decor

These two statuettes, a man and woman each embellished with enlarged, carved sunflowers, offer the look of carved wood with the durability of resin. The man carries a turkey while the woman cradles a pumpkin and other fall produce. Retell history and order two sets to make same-sex pilgrim couples, if you want.

Home Decorators Collection  
\$45

[www.homedecorators.com](http://www.homedecorators.com)

### 4. Twig Cornucopia

Create a traditional harvest centerpiece scene with this cornucopia. A rustic accent perfect for displaying the bounty of the harvest, add faux or real vegetables for an easy centerpiece done in style.

World Market  
\$9.99

[www.worldmarket.com](http://www.worldmarket.com)



## HANUKKAH

### 5. Illume Menorah

Brighten the season and keep faith alive with tradition while making a festive and contemporary statement. This menorah will bring joy year after year.

Nambé  
\$175

[www.nambe.com](http://www.nambe.com)

### 6. Heart to Heart Dreidel

The Heart Collection takes its inspiration from the imagery that floats around classic storytelling. Drawing from

Aram's background as a sculptor, each piece emerges from hand-sculpted clay and cast in nickelplate, offering a child-like quality with an inherent depth of meaning.

Michael Aram  
\$59

[www.michaelaram.com](http://www.michaelaram.com)

### 7. Star of David Branch Serving Platter

Modeled on the Star of David done in a branch motif, this platter adds a meaningful focus to the holiday table.

Pottery Barn  
\$49.50

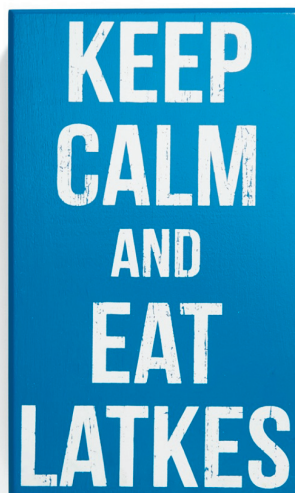
[www.potterybarn.com](http://www.potterybarn.com)

### 8. "Eat Latkes" Box Sign

Succumb to the "Keep Calm" trend with this humorous message displayed on a charming box sign sure to add character to your home.

Nordstrom  
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[www.nordstrom.com](http://www.nordstrom.com)





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# HOLIDAY MARKETPLACE

by Shane Lueck

## YULE/WINTER SOLSTICE

### 1. Yule Goddess Print

Angie Latham lives in the heart of England and has a passion for Celtic traditions. Yule, the Celtic festival of the birth of the sun, is celebrated in Latham's Goddess print featuring Winter Solstice imagery from the silver star to the holly, ivy, and mistletoe. Available in your choice of formats. Redbubble \$2.40-\$114.00 [www.redbubble.com](http://www.redbubble.com)

1



### 2. Wheel of the Year Plaque

This beautifully detailed plaque by Maxine Miller depicts the cycles of nature in plant forms arrayed around spokes denoting the festivals. Wood-finish resin plaque has eight hooks in the back, so you can turn it as the year turns. GaelSong \$65 [www.gael-song.com](http://www.gael-song.com)

2



### 3. Winter Solstice Door Wreath

A perfect wreath for the entire season, hang it up Thanksgiving and leave up all winter long. This faux beauty is made with artificial greens and red berries on a grapevine base. Wreaths For Door & More \$74.99 [www.wreathsfordoor.com](http://www.wreathsfordoor.com)

3



### 4. Three-tiered Yule Log

This three-tiered birch Yule log cradle with birch logs and prelit evergreen boughs are right at home in the fireplace or in a place of honor for the holiday. Etsy \$150 [www.etsy.com/shop/NECenterpieces](http://www.etsy.com/shop/NECenterpieces)

4



## CHRISTMAS

### 5. Rainbow Tree Topper

Add a little pride to the holiday season with a dash of rainbow on the tree. World-renowned ornament designer, Larry Fraga, creates masterpieces with his mouth-blown, hand-painted designs. Larry Fraga Designs \$65 [www.larryfraga.com](http://www.larryfraga.com)

5



### 6. Believe Sign

Celebrate an amazing year for GLBT rights with Macy's iconic red "Believe" sign. The festivity never ends as this sign coated in sparkling glitter brings endless holiday cheer to your home. Macy's \$34.99 [www.macys.com](http://www.macys.com)

6



### 7. Tree Advent Calendar

A decorative new take on the Advent calendar allows you to countdown the days as you wish. Stocking stuffers, candies, or a new ornament each day make the countdown to Christmas even more fun. Pottery Barn \$179 [www.potterybarn.com](http://www.potterybarn.com)

7



### 8. December Diamonds Ornaments

Whatever your cup of tea, December Diamonds has an ornament for you. From sailors to firemen and from UPS delivery men to lumberjacks, there is a merman for everyone. Even a Pride Angel and mermaid divas for the ladies in the room. Diamonds of the Sea \$29.99 [www.diamondsofthesea.com](http://www.diamondsofthesea.com)

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# HOLIDAY MARKETPLACE

by Shane Lueck

## KWANZAA

### 1. Arc Celebration Set

Handmade in Ghana, enjoy this beautiful set to celebrate Kwanzaa in style. The set includes an arc candle holder, seven tapered 12" candles, bamboo mat, unity cup, and an information sheet on how to celebrate Kwanzaa.

African Heritage Collection  
\$69.99

[www.africanheritagecollection.com](http://www.africanheritagecollection.com)



2

### 2. Sister Dance Wall Hanging

Celebrate African heritage with this wall hanging done in vivid West African colors.

As a celebration of life and sisterhood, this hanging uses a centuries-old dyeing technique called Batik painting.

Ten Thousand Villages  
\$59

[www.tenthousandvillages.com](http://www.tenthousandvillages.com)



3

### 3. Five-Color Basket

Handmade in Ghana, this basket incorporates the colors of the holiday while cherishing African craftsmanship.

This colorful, double-twisted elephant grass basket brings a natural element to the holiday decor.

SERRV  
\$45

[www.serrv.org](http://www.serrv.org)

### 4. Celebrating Kwanzaa Print

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HourCar's plug-in Toyota Prius and Toyota Yaris at Mississippi Market, St. Paul. Photo by Randy Stern

## A GROWING ALTERNATIVE: CAR SHARING IN THE TWIN CITIES

Not everyone owns a car in the Twin Cities.

What options are available for non-car owners in this area? Metro Transit and the Metropolitan Council would be the first answer to this question, operating over a 100 routes by bus, light rail and commuter rail through several agencies across the region. The system may work for most, but not all. There are gaps in service in places and often lack the flexibility of some riders living across the Twin Cities.

If public transportation is the alternative, what is their alternative? What if we actually need a car at ready access to do errands that public transit would prevent us to do?

We are lucky to have several solutions

available to us here in the Twin Cities. Car Sharing just happen to be one of them. Since 2005, Twin Cities residents were able to join programs that gave us the opportunities for a temporary car share without having to go through a rental car agency to keep a vehicle longer than needed. Yet, what we found is a split in need between simple errands to full trips out of town within the state or beyond.

However, car sharing is growing. Once there was one provider for this service, it has spawned competition.

HourCar's plug-in Toyota Prius and Toyota Yaris at Mississippi Market, St. Paul

HourCar is the first to establish car shar-

ing in the area. The program is as an arm of the Neighborhood Energy Connection – a non-profit organization aimed at providing energy conserving programs to the Twin Cities. Car Sharing fits in this program, as it serves to use efficient vehicles for HourCar's energy conscious members. Since starting the service in 2005, HourCar has grown to 2000 members with 57 vehicles located at 53 hubs across both Minneapolis and St. Paul. The primary vehicle in HourCar's fleet remains the Toyota Prius, however they do offer various other hybrids – including plug-in models – and small cars, a MINI Cooper Clubman, a few mid-sized pickup, trucks, a



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Mazda5 compact minivan and a Honda Element crossover.

While HourCar is growing, Zipcar also made its move from its local base at the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities campus. Recently acquired by the Avis-Budget Group, Zipcar began as a tie-in with the University of Minnesota to expand into key neighborhoods across Minneapolis. Zipcar's fleet includes compact crossovers, various hatchbacks and hybrids, an Audi and a Mercedes-Benz.

Enterprise Rent-A-Car – formerly known as WeCar – also recently joined in the car sharing fray with hub locations in select parts of Minneapolis, using a mix of the vehicles selected from their parent fleet – mainly Fords and a few other vehicles. They also serve four college campuses in outstate locations, such as Carleton College, St. Olaf College, St John's University and the College of St. Benedict.

Now there is a third car sharing service in town. Car2Go is a program run by a unit of Daimler AG. Using only smart forTwos, Car2Go operates by using a mobile app to point subscribers to nearby vehicles. There are no specific hubs for these smarts – rather using unrestricted or extended time legal on-street parking location across Minneapolis. A subscribers needs to do is to locate one on the mobile app, reserve it and do the trip. Instead of changing by the hour, as HourCar and Zipcar do, Car2Go charges by the minute. The Car2Go fleet is growing with a goal of putting 300 vehicles on the streets of Minneapolis with possible expansion into Saint Paul.

Though you might not see them on the street or at certain "hubs," Hertz also offers car sharing through their 24/7 program. A few Hertz rental locations offer cars to share, but their main push have been through their partnership with Lowe's home improvement centers through the use of vans and trucks to haul stuff home from shopping there. Hertz 24/7 is charged based on time, with distance limitations, then the final charges

are calculated on a trip basis.

With more choices than ever, which one should you subscribe to? It would depend on whether you live in an area that you have access to these vehicles. HourCar and Zipcar operate hubs, which are located off-street at parking lots, whereas Car2Go vehicles could be found anywhere within the Minneapolis city limits. For residents in or around the University of Minnesota, downtown Minneapolis, Uptown and around Loring Park/Stevens Square, you will find plenty ready access to vehicles to utilize. Key areas of Saint Paul are covered by HourCar, stretching from the University of St. Thomas to Lowertown.

North Minneapolis had to make do with two HourCar hubs in Bryn Mawr and in the North Loop. The advantage of Car2Go is the flexibility of vehicles to be parked for access anywhere within the city limits. With the assistance of their app, you could find a Car2Go vehicle as far north of Victory Memorial Parkway and 44th Avenue North or in the deeper parts of Northeast Minneapolis past the Quarry Shopping Center.

As far as any trip restrictions, both HourCar and ZipCar can allow vehicles to be reserved on a daily rate with mileage cap of 150 miles. Meanwhile, Enterprise raises the ante to 200 miles per rental. With all three services, you are charged a per-mile extra over the given allotment. Car2Go also utilizes a 150-mile cap, but with other car sharing programs, they too charge an extra cost per mile – averaging 38 cents on a per mile basis. However, all of these car sharing services include fuel and full insurance coverage in their cost.

In terms of vehicle security, a card or a fob is required to access one of the HourCar, Zipcar, Enterprise or Car2Go vehicles. Hertz 24/7 truck and van rentals utilize a kiosk at Lowe's stores and operate the same with a card to swipe for access. Regardless, with card readers and other security measures on board, it is tough for others to gain unlawful access to these vehicles.

Otherwise, car sharing is seen to be more convenient than going to a rental car location. After making your reservation, you simply go to the vehicle – either at a hub or parked on the street – swipe, examine the vehicle, go through pre-start checks and go. With mobile app technology, one could reserve the vehicle while standing next to it.

Would you use a car sharing service to do a trip to Duluth or other locations requiring a significant distance to drive? Before you commit to doing so, do the math between potential car sharing charges for hours or days to be used, along with any mileage charges over the set daily limit. You may want to compare that to potential charges using a traditional rental car agency, including gas and additional charges and taxes.

To get started, always check their websites for qualifications. There are certain age and driving record restrictions to be considered for membership in HourCar, Zipcar, Car2Go and Enterprise Car Share. They all do checks on your driving record to make sure you fit these qualifications. There is also the matter of a single fee – whether it is called membership or application fee. You only have to pay this once before being a member. HourCar still takes the time to invite you to an orientation to make sure you are familiar with their service, while Zipcar and Car2Go offer online tutorials showing you what to do when reserving and using their vehicles.

In the Twin Cities, we love choices. We also love to play our part in being sustainable and conscious about our environment and community. With as many car share vehicles available across the heart of The Cities, we now have a broader choice for an alternative to traditional of car ownership. □



car2go's smart for Two Pure at the Stone Arch Bridge, Minneapolis; other perks to car sharing. Photos by Randy Stern



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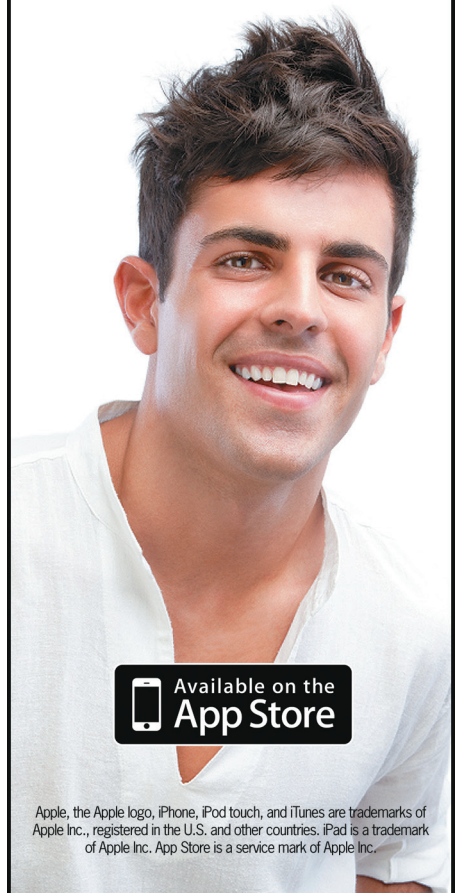
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## Lily White

I walked past the window display and something grabbed, making me stop.

There it was: a poster-size page of the Minneapolis Star-Journal for August 14, 1945, on an easel, with the headline, *"Truman Announces Jap Surrender."*

*"Jap."* It hit me like baseball bat.

Disclosure: I have two daughters who are Korean adoptees. Second disclosure: I really like Asian people. Maybe Disclosure 1 and 2 are related.

The easel and headline were housed in a skyway picture-frame shop in downtown Minneapolis, which I pass every day on my lunch hour. Last Christmas, I bought some delightful picture-word montages from there.

Who got those montages?

My Asian-born daughters.

Appalled by the "Jap" headline, I entered the picture-frame shop and approached the owner, a man in his early seventies. Here's how it went:

Me: *"I'm sorry to say this but do you know that Jap' is a derogatory term?"*

Store Owner: *"Jap? Great word! My father served in the Navy in World War II. Jap! Good word!"*

Me: *"That's horrible! I know you may not understand this, but 'Jap' is very offensive to many people."*

Store Owner: *"Jap! It's a great word."*

Me: *"I'll never buy another thing from your store again!"*

As I stormed out, the store owner hounded, *"Jap! Jap!"*

I ran to the skyway knowing only one thing.

Racism.

I moved to Minneapolis in early 2010 with hope, energy, and innocence dreaming to make my mark. Not long in, I realized there's

something wrong here relative to race.

Statistic: the Minneapolis high school graduation rate for African-American males is 40 percent, a figure worthy of third world nations.

In many places, this would spark protests, write-in campaigns, and calls for resignations.

But not in the Twin Cities.

We tolerate it.

I co-chair the Hennepin County Bar Association Diversity Committee, which has given me tremendous insight into the racial disparities that plague the Twin Cities. For example, out of approximately 8500 lawyers in Minneapolis, less than 30 attorneys of color hold partnership positions.

This is in a metropolitan area where minorities make up 37 percent of the population.

What is it about this place that fosters intolerance?

I wish I knew. Some say it's "Minnesota Nice," but I think the racial/ethnic issues go deeper. Class, religion, ethnicity, and skin color all factor in. We have an incredibly small black middle class. Often, a person of color never sees another person of color in business meetings or social gatherings.

All of this makes it easy for a shopkeeper to believe there's nothing wrong with displaying a racial slur in his store window at lunchtime.

Now for another date that holds meaning here.

On October 6, 2013, I was up before dawn to walk with my brother Mark to the start of a 15K race. The course took Mark and 15,000 other people from downtown Minneapolis to the statehouse in St. Paul.

After cheering Mark as his flight started, I drove to St. Paul for the finish. I got

there early, and stood 100 yards from the finish line.

Not far from me, a group of musicians wearing red Target Corporation jackets played Dixieland tunes. Families held homemade signs. The scene was festive; applause and the sound of cowbells (also courtesy of Target) were abundant.

As the runners appeared, there was one or two, then clumps of four or five, and finally waves. The runners were young, old, male, and female.

And almost uniformly lily white.

The absence of racial diversity was so painfully obvious that I counted the non-white runners.

In fifteen minutes, I saw eight non-white faces.

I'm not a demographer, nor do I know anything about the runner culture (maybe it only attracts white people?). Yet, in a metropolitan area where more than one in three people is of color, something—some unspoken rule or social contract—accounts for the lack of diversity at such a highly public event.

It's not that the Twin Cities can't embrace diversity—heck, GLBT people hold many high profile corporate and government jobs. In barely six months, we beat the anti-marriage amendment and then voted in gay marriage.

For some reason, though, race and ethnicity are more difficult. Until we figure out why that's the case, I suspect a certain shopkeeper with keep hauling out an old newspaper headline on V-J Day. □

Ellie Krug is the author of *Getting to Ellen: A Memoir about Love, Honesty and Gender Change*. She welcomes your comments at [ellenkrugwriter@gmail.com](mailto:ellenkrugwriter@gmail.com)



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[www.healtheast.org](http://www.healtheast.org)

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[www.mnadopt.org](http://www.mnadopt.org)

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[www.pinehaven-mn.org](http://www.pinehaven-mn.org)

## ADVOCACY

### Rainbow Health Initiative

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Minneapolis, MN  
(612) 206-3180  
[www.rainbowhealth.org](http://www.rainbowhealth.org)

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Community Center for Individuals Living with HIV/AIDS - On-site Meals, Food Shelf and Supportive Services.  
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(612) 824-LIFE (5433) [www.aliveness.org](http://www.aliveness.org)

### HIM Program / Red Door Services

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525 Portland Ave. S, 4th Floor  
Minneapolis, MN  
(612) 348-9100  
[www.HIMprogram.org](http://www.HIMprogram.org)  
[www.StopSyphMN.com](http://www.StopSyphMN.com)  
[www.inSPOT.org/Minnesota](http://www.inSPOT.org/Minnesota)  
[www.capsprogram.org](http://www.capsprogram.org)

### Minnesota AIDS Project AIDSLine

The AIDSLine is the statewide referral service to connect with HIV information and resources.  
1400 Park Ave.  
Minneapolis, MN  
(612) 373-AIDS (metro) or  
(800) 248-AIDS (statewide)  
[mapaidsline@mn aidsproject.org](mailto:mapaidsline@mn aidsproject.org)  
[www.mnaidsproject.org](http://www.mnaidsproject.org)

### Park House

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Minneapolis, MN  
(612) 871-1264  
[www.allina.com/ahs/anw.nsf/page/park\\_house\\_home](http://www.allina.com/ahs/anw.nsf/page/park_house_home)

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## Judge Not....

A friend recently spent a day cleaning out his music collection. He had thousands of CDs, and felt the need to cull hundreds from the herd. So he sorted through the discs and then called me over to pick through his discards.

"I'm offering them to you because I know you won't judge me," he said.

I picked up Barbara Mandrell's Greatest Hits from the pile and gave him a sideways glance. "Why would you think that I'm not going to judge you," I said. "You have a CD by Kevin Federline. You actually went to a music store and purchased it. Of course I'm going to judge you."

"But you're the least judgmental person I know," he cried. "I thought my secrets were safe with you."

"Well, you're wrong. And, by the way, I've always thought it was creepy that you buy your mom pantyhose."

"But she always chooses the wrong size and they bunch up at her knees," he said, dropping his head into his hands. "How could I have been so wrong about you? You've been quietly judging me for years. You're a monster."

And, he's right. I am a monster. Mainly

because I make judgments about people in areas that they aren't prepared to be judged on. So, I'll never judge someone on their weight or clothing style or profession. But, if you use the word "penultimate" I'm going to call you out on it. I'm going to tell you that you are using it only because a.) it has become a trendy word in 2013; and b.) you feel really smart because it has four syllables. Well you know what else has four syllables? "Second to last."

As I've mentioned in a previous column, I belong to my local yacht club. I joined the club because they refused to accept gay members. So, I joined and told them I was gay after the fact. Because that's the kind of idiot I am. I consider it a victory to pay a hefty annual membership fee just to prove a stupid point.

But in spite of the club's narrow-minded views on the gays, and my general pettiness and hunger for revenge, it worked out for the best for all concerned. The club members love me and, as a result, have instituted a non-discrimination policy. And, now, we have a bunch of gay boy members who have taken over the entertainment and decorations committee. The club has never looked

so good or been so much fun.

I'm now part of the membership committee and get to judge which applicants are worthy of joining the club. Yesterday, we were presented with an interesting case. A husband and wife submitted an application and we all voted it down, but for different reasons.

"They're swingers!" said one committee member, who told us the story of how the couple tried to lure her back to their boat after the Commander's Ball.

"They're awful drunks!" said another member. And using the term "awful drunk" is pretty damning in this crowd known for its vigorous booze consumption.

Then they turned to me for my final judgment.

"I don't care who or what they sleep with. And I don't care if they drink rubbing alcohol straight from the bottle. What I object to is that during the interview, when I cracked that witty, little joke about Coco Chanel, the wife asked, 'Who's that?' And then the husband said, 'Oh, you know. That blonde who's married to Ice T.' My God! What is wrong with these people? Membership denied!" □

TROLÍN, UN DIABLITO ROSA

POR RODRO



We won't hand over the nation to the gays...  
Nous n'allons pas livrer la nation aux gais...



...or to the undocumented, or to the  
atheists...  
...ni aux immigrants illégaux, ni aux  
athées...



Of course not...  
Bien sûr que non...



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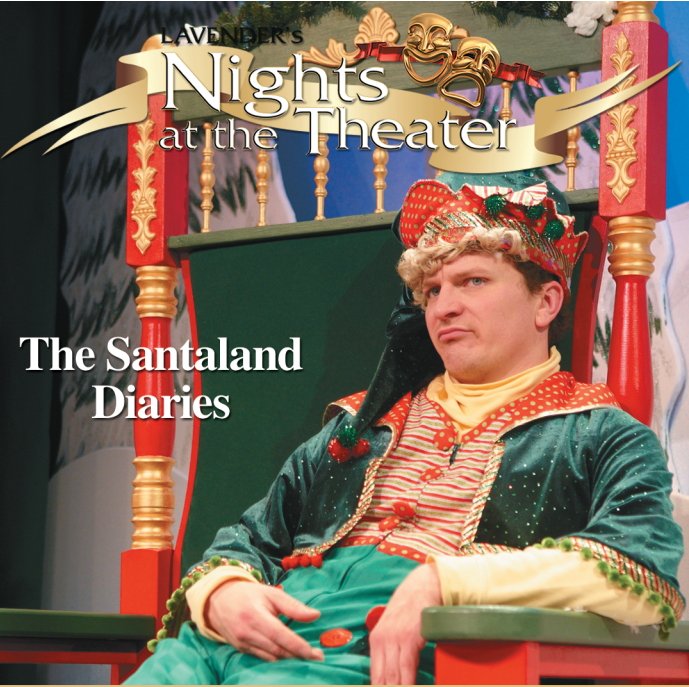
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## Until It's Gone: Through The Eyes of Shawn E.

*As told to the author by Shawn E.*

It's 4:00 a.m. My friends are screaming. We're all screaming. Four of us are in Jeff's Toyota, speeding too fast down a steep hill. Ahead there's a sharp turn and a stop sign that Jeff notices too late. We're going to overshoot the turn and we're going to crash. This is too late to avoid. My neck, thighs, and back tighten. I freeze. I'm going to die. Oh my god, *I'm going to die*. The stop sign streaks past my peripheral vision as we fly by. Our headlights illuminate a jagged, rocky embankment, moving impossibly fast toward our windshield. This is it.

I don't hear the screeching of the brakes or feel the skidding of the car. I see everyone screaming, but I can't hear them. It's one of those slow motion moments you see in action movies, one expelled from time, when what really takes just a second slows down to a minute. An hour. A day. The last thing I see are rocks. They encompass my entire field of vision. Then, a brilliant impact.

I wake up to fluorescent lighting and stunning pain. I'm on a gurney in a hospital corridor. I look down at my body. My clothes are soaked in blood. The roof of my mouth feels like crushed potato chips.

Before I can process anything I'm under a dozen doctors and see a woman's eyebrows. She tells me to count down from ten and puts a mask over my face. She's pretty. Her eyebrows are, anyway. They blur. I relax. I drift away.

I wake up several hours later and it's day-

light outside. I'm on a stiff mattress in a disturbingly cheerful hospital room. My face is hot. I realize bandages cover my head, every inch of it, except for slits for my eyes, mouth, and nose. I can't move. I fill with anxiety. Sheets of pain rake over my body, like someone's showering me in scalding hot water and razor blades. I hear a beeping noise. Beep. Beep. The noise picks up speed. It's a heart monitor. My heart monitor.

I can't get enough air. I want to take a deep breath but can't open my mouth. I can't breathe. They wired my mouth shut.

Maybe I did die.

Maybe I'm in hell.

Over the next several weeks I'm in a morphine-laced unreality. I can do nothing for myself. Nurses take care of my most embarrassing needs. I live off liquids. I'm always in pain, and I can hardly move.

I want to cry so bad I can't stand it. I want to scream. I want out of this goddamn bed. I want to rip these bandages off of my face. I want to open my mouth. I want to eat real food. I want to go home. I feel so helpless I want to die. I'm trapped in a cage and I can't stand up.

I prepare myself for the worst by remembering the best. When I'm conscious, I close my eyes and feel the rush of catching a football. I feel a boy's lips touch mine. I fantasize about lovemaking. I taste ice cream and smell rain. And fresh air, I feel it on my face—until my heart monitor interrupts me and the illusion disappears, replaced with

my sweaty, blood-soaked and bandaged face.

My life is over. I'm an Invisible Man, an invisible monster, and I wish they had left me to die.

I think this way for weeks, endlessly torturing myself, moving between fantasy and reality, until the day my doctors remove the bandages that've hidden what's surely my haphazard, disfigured face.

"Are you ready?" my doctor asks, as if he really needs to.

Every bandage removed brings a hint of cool air, and with every breeze, a sense of newness, a blurry picture slowly refocusing. Air, yes—it's something you don't think to appreciate, that you take for granted, until it's gone. Trust me when I say that when you can no longer feel air on your face, you miss it like you wouldn't believe.

A breath of fresh air, literally, and the first time I feel alive. The first domino to fall on my road to recovery.

Today, years later, screws, plates, and wires hold my face together. My short term memory is gone. I can't play sports.

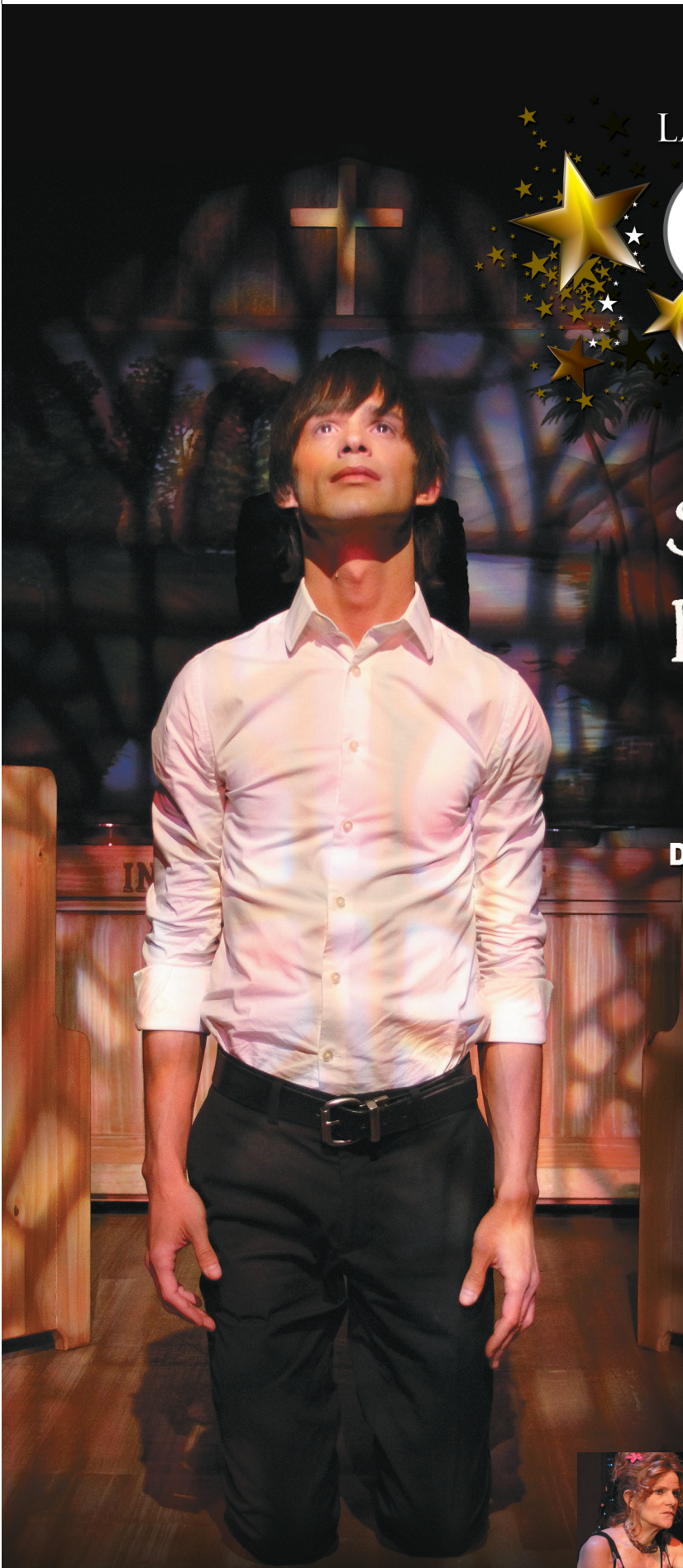
But I can hold a boy's hand and feel his lips touch mine. I'm closer to my family and see more of my friends. I see little things that other people don't. I'm braver than before.

More daring. More alive. And the air—I can feel it on my face.

They say that you don't know what you've got 'til it's gone. This is true. I lost the boy I was to become the man I am today. !

*Shawn E. lives in California.* ■





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